

WOOD DESTROYING ORGANISM (WDO) HOME INSPECTION PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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1. True or False: Both pairs of wings on the winged forms of termites (called alates or swarmers) are of equal size and shape.
 - A. True
 - B. False
2. The exterior siding should be at least ____ inches above the outside grade and should not extend down more than 2 inches below the top of the foundation walls.
 - A. 10
 - B. 6
 - C. 2
 - D. 12
3. True or False: Termites feed on materials that contain cellulose, such as wood.
 - A. True
 - B. False
4. A group of winged male and female reproductives that leaves the colony is known as what?
 - A. Swarm
 - B. Flock
 - C. Caste
 - D. Colony
5. True or False: Carpenter ants use their strong mandibles primarily for constructing nests from wood.
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Only During Nesting Season
 - D. Occasionally

6. Typically made of treated lumber, what is the bottom horizontal member of an exterior wall frame that rests on top of the foundation wall?
- A. Top plate
 - B. Window sill plate
 - C. Girder
 - D. Sill plate
7. What does foundation treating involve?
- A. Applying termiticide to the soil
 - B. Applying termiticide to the floor
 - C. Applying termiticide to a foundation
 - D. Applying termiticide to the roof
8. The presence of which system is crucial for injecting termiticides effectively?
- A. A filtering system
 - B. A lighting system
 - C. A pressurized spray system
 - D. A heating system
9. True or False: Using kiln- or air-dried wood in construction is a costly method to prevent WDO infestation.
- A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Depends on Location
 - D. Partially True
10. How are carpenter ants characterized in terms of their waists?
- A. Constricted
 - B. Non-constricted
 - C. Wide
 - D. Narrow

Answers

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1. A
2. B
3. A
4. A
5. A
6. D
7. C
8. C
9. B
10. A

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Explanations

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1. True or False: Both pairs of wings on the winged forms of termites (called alates or swarmers) are of equal size and shape.

A. True

B. False

Termite swarmers, also known as alates, do indeed possess two pairs of wings that are of equal size and shape. This characteristic differentiates them from other winged insects, such as ants, where the forewings are often larger than the hindwings. The equal size and appearance of the wings in termites facilitate their ability to fly effectively when they leave their colony to reproduce and establish new colonies. This feature is part of their biological design, ensuring that they are streamlined for flight during their swarming season. Thus, stating that both pairs of wings are of equal size and shape is correct.

2. The exterior siding should be at least ____ inches above the outside grade and should not extend down more than 2 inches below the top of the foundation walls.

A. 10

B. 6

C. 2

D. 12

The required clearance of siding above the outside grade is a crucial detail in home construction that helps to prevent moisture issues and potential pest infiltration. The correct answer indicates that the exterior siding should be at least 6 inches above the ground level. This height is important because it minimizes direct contact with soil, which can retain moisture and promote wood decay or serve as a pathway for insects, such as termites. Maintaining this distance ensures that the siding does not absorb moisture from the ground, reducing the risk of water damage and extending the lifespan of the siding material. Additionally, having the siding extend down no more than 2 inches below the top of the foundation walls is also a standard practice that provides a barrier against moisture wicking up from the foundation and keeps the underlying materials drier. Overall, following these guidelines supports the long-term durability and health of the structure, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of home maintenance practices.

3. True or False: Termites feed on materials that contain cellulose, such as wood.

A. True

B. False

Termites are known for their ability to digest cellulose, which is a component of plant cell walls found in materials like wood, paper, and some types of insulation. This feeding habit is crucial for their survival, as they derive nourishment from consuming these cellulose-rich substances. Their role in the ecosystem involves breaking down organic materials and recycling nutrients, which also explains why they can be such a significant pest when they infest wooden structures. This behavior is consistent across various species of termites, making the statement true.

4. A group of winged male and female reproductives that leaves the colony is known as what?

A. Swarm

B. Flock

C. Caste

D. Colony

The term that describes a group of winged male and female reproductives leaving the colony is called a swarm. This event typically occurs during a reproductive phase in the life cycle of certain social insects, such as termites and some types of ants. During a swarm, these winged individuals, or alates, take to the air to find new locations for establishing colonies, playing a crucial role in their reproductive strategy and the dissemination of the species. In contrast, a flock refers to a large group of birds. Caste pertains to the different forms or groups within a colony that have specific roles, such as workers, soldiers, and reproductives, and does not describe the act of leaving. A colony signifies the entire community of insects living together, including various castes, and does not solely refer to the reproductive individuals that swarm. Understanding the correct terminology involved is vital for accurately identifying behaviors and life cycles of wood-destroying organisms.

5. True or False: Carpenter ants use their strong mandibles primarily for constructing nests from wood.

A. True

B. False

C. Only During Nesting Season

D. Occasionally

The statement is true because carpenter ants do indeed utilize their strong mandibles for the purpose of excavating wood to create nests. They do not eat the wood; instead, they remove it to form intricate tunnels and chambers within it. This behavior is crucial for their nesting habits as it allows them to establish a secure habitat for the colony. The ability to carve out nests from wood is a defining characteristic of carpenter ants and plays a significant role in their reproductive cycle, as they require a safe and suitable environment for rearing their young. Their mandibles are specifically adapted to effectively perform this task, differentiating them from other wood-destroying organisms that may consume wood for nourishment.

6. Typically made of treated lumber, what is the bottom horizontal member of an exterior wall frame that rests on top of the foundation wall?

A. Top plate

B. Window sill plate

C. Girder

D. Sill plate

The bottom horizontal member of an exterior wall frame that rests on top of the foundation wall is referred to as the sill plate. This component is critical in construction as it establishes a stable and level base for the wall framing to be constructed above. Being made of treated lumber is essential for the sill plate because it is in direct contact with the concrete foundation, which can be prone to moisture. Treated lumber is specifically designed to resist decay and insect damage, ensuring the longevity and structural integrity of the wall framing. Understanding the function and importance of the sill plate in the overall structure helps ensure proper construction practices, which are vital for effective home inspections, especially related to wood-destroying organisms that can compromise structural elements.

7. What does foundation treating involve?

- A. Applying termiticide to the soil
- B. Applying termiticide to the floor
- C. Applying termiticide to a foundation**
- D. Applying termiticide to the roof

Foundation treating primarily involves the application of termiticides to the foundation of a structure. This process is crucial for creating a barrier that protects the home from subterranean termites and other wood-destroying organisms that can enter from the soil. By focusing on the foundation, the treatment aims to prevent these pests from accessing the interior of the home, which is essential for maintaining the structural integrity of the building. Applying termiticide to the foundation ensures that the area where the home meets the soil is properly protected. It creates a chemical barrier that deters termites from tunneling through the treated soil to reach the wood structures of the home. This targeted approach is a critical step in pest control and is often part of a comprehensive pest management strategy. While other mentioned areas may seem relevant, such as treating the floor or roof, they do not address the primary entry points for termites, which are typically found at the foundation level where they establish access into the structure. Therefore, applying termiticide directly to the foundation is the most effective method for preventing infestations.

8. The presence of which system is crucial for injecting termiticides effectively?

- A. A filtering system
- B. A lighting system
- C. A pressurized spray system**
- D. A heating system

The presence of a pressurized spray system is crucial for the effective injection of termiticides because it allows for the controlled and consistent application of chemical solutions into the soil or targeted areas where termites may be active. The pressurization ensures that the termiticide is dispersed at the appropriate flow rate and pressure, which is essential for achieving adequate penetration into the soil and forming a barrier against termites. This helps to maximize the effectiveness of the treatment by ensuring that the termiticide reaches potential hiding spots of termites effectively. In pest control practices, particularly when dealing with wood-destroying organisms like termites, the method of application can significantly influence the outcome of the treatment. A robust pressurized system enables technicians to cover larger areas and reach deeper into the soil, which is especially important given that termites typically reside underground or in hidden structures. The correct application pressure and method protect the structure over time and prevent reinfestation by providing a long-lasting barrier.

9. True or False: Using kiln- or air-dried wood in construction is a costly method to prevent WDO infestation.

- A. True
- B. False**
- C. Depends on Location
- D. Partially True

Using kiln- or air-dried wood in construction is a beneficial method for preventing Wood Destroying Organism infestation, and it is generally not considered a costly method in the long term. Dried wood has lower moisture content, making it less attractive to pests like termites and other wood-boring insects that thrive in moist environments. Therefore, the upfront investment in properly dried wood can lead to reduced risks of infestation, lower maintenance costs, and potential savings in pest control measures over time. While the initial costs of kiln- or air-dried wood might be slightly higher than using untreated wood, the overall benefits, including enhanced durability and resistance to pests, outweigh these costs. This consideration leads to the conclusion that utilizing such wood types is a practical and economically sound strategy in WDO management.

10. How are carpenter ants characterized in terms of their waists?

- A. Constricted**
- B. Non-constricted
- C. Wide
- D. Narrow

Carpenter ants are characterized by having a constricted waist, which is a notable feature that differentiates them from other ants. This constricted appearance is due to the presence of a pinched segment between their thorax and abdomen. This physical trait is significant for identification purposes, especially in the context of pest control and home inspection. In contrast, some other types of ants may have either non-constricted waists or wide and uniformly shaped bodies, making them easily distinguishable from carpenter ants. Understanding these physical characteristics is essential for accurate identification during inspections, as it helps in assessing potential infestations and implementing suitable control measures.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://wdohomeinspection.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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